

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content distribution notification method of informing a third party by a first party that a content distribution will be performed based on a reservation by a first party distributor terminal apparatus, said reservation for use of a distribution server, via a reservation control apparatus for controlling a reservation status of said distribution server, via a first network, and for performing a live content distribution using said distribution server based on the reservation, in order to perform the live content distribution using said distribution server for distributing content by streaming via said network to a client terminal apparatus, said content distribution notification method comprising:

receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said distribution server and third party contact address who should be informed that the content distribution will be performed, from said first party distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via a network;

setting a reservation based on said reservation request information;

a subsequent notifying step of sending notification information based on said reservation request information to notify the third party that the content distribution will be performed, from said reservation control apparatus to the third party contact address via the network when the content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted;

unidirectionally streaming the content distribution from a live distribution source to the third party based on said reservation request information;

performing a capacity check before accepting the reservation, including determining whether a channel is opened or closed;

providing a reservation summary to the first party including an indication of capacity, bands available, fee and a schedule showing which periods of time are free or reserved; and

reserving by the third party, for rebroadcast by the distribution server, by the third party a favorite-predetermined portion of a subsequent-previous live broadcast of said content distribution, wherein

said reservation request information includes one of at least a first reservation type and a second reservation type;

a permission notification step of sending, when content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted, reservation permission notification information to notify the first party that the content distribution is permitted and that it is necessary for said first party to carry out a procedure for reconfirming the reservation via the network by a predetermined time before said desired service time to establish this reservation, from said reservation control apparatus to said first party distributor terminal apparatus via the network, and wherein

said notification step sends said notification information upon said distributor terminal apparatus performing said reservation reconfirmation procedure.

Claim 2 (Original): The content distribution notification method according to Claim 1, wherein

said notification information includes access information for connection said distribution server.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method according to Claim 1, wherein:

said step of sending notification information includes sending authentication information for the third party to acquire a permission to access said distribution server; and
said notification information includes said authentication information.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method according to Claim 1, further comprising

a cancellation notification step of sending cancellation notification information to notify the third party that the reservation is canceled by said first party, from said reservation control apparatus to the third party contact address via a network, when information of canceling the reservation is sent from said first party distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via the network.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method according to Claim 1, further comprising

a change notification step of sending change notification information to notify the third party that the reservation contents are changed by said first party, from said reservation control apparatus to the third party contact address via the network, when information of changing the reservation contents is sent from said first party distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via the network.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method according to Claim 1, further comprising

a permission notification step of sending, when content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted, reservation permission notification information to notify the first party that the content distribution is permitted and that it is necessary for the first party to carry out a procedure for reconfirming the reservation via the network by a predetermined time before said desired service time to establish this reservation from said reservation control apparatus to said first party distributor terminal apparatus via the network, and wherein

said notification step sends said notification information upon said permission notification information being sent and further to send said notification information upon said first party distributor terminal apparatus performing said reservation reconfirmation procedure.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the third party contact address is an e-mail address; and

said notification step is to send said notification information to the third party contact address via an e-mail.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A reservation control apparatus for controlling reservations of live content distribution by a first party to a third party using a distribution server that performs stream distribution of content to a third party terminal apparatus via a network, said reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said distribution server and a third party contact address who should be

informed that the content distribution will be performed, from a first party distributor terminal apparatus requesting to perform live content distribution via a network;

means for setting a reservation based on said reservation request information; and

notification means for subsequently sending notification information based on said reservation request information to notify said third party that the content distribution will be performed, from said reservation control apparatus to the third party contact address via the network, when content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted; and

means for unidirectionally streaming the content distribution from a live distribution source to the third party based on said reservation request information;

means for performing a capacity check before accepting the reservation, including determining whether a channel is opened or closed;

means for providing a reservation summary to the first party including an indication of capacity, bands available, fee and a schedule showing which periods of time are free or reserved; and

means for reserving by the third party, for rebroadcast by the distribution server, a predetermined portion of a previous live broadcast of said content distribution~~reserving for rebroadcast by the third party a favorite portion of a subsequent live broadcast of said content distribution, wherein~~

said reservation request information includes one of at least a first reservation type and a second reservation type;

a permission notification means for sending, when content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted, reservation permission notification information to notify the first party that the content distribution is permitted and that it is necessary for the first party to

carry out a procedure for reconfirming the reservation via the network by a predetermined time before said desired service time to establish this reservation, to said distributor terminal apparatus via the network, and wherein

said notification means sends said notification information upon said first party distributor terminal apparatus performing said reservation reconfirmation procedure.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein

said notification means includes means for sending said notification information including access information for connection to said distribution server.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein

said receiving means includes means for receiving reservation request information including authentication information for the third party to acquire a permission to access said distribution server; and

said notification means includes means for sending said notification information including said authentication information.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said receiving means further comprises

cancellation notification means for sending cancellation notification information to notify the third party that the reservation is canceled by said first party, from said reservation control apparatus to said third party contact address via the network, when receiving

information of canceling the reservation sent from said first party distributor terminal apparatus via the network.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said receiving means further comprises

change notification means for sending change notification information to notify the third party that the reservation is changed by said first party, from said reservation control apparatus to the third party contact address via the network, when receiving information of changing the reservation contents sent from said first party distributor terminal apparatus via the network.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising

permission notification means for sending, when content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted, reservation permission notification information to notify the first party that the content distribution is permitted and that it is necessary for the first party to carry out a procedure for reconfirming the reservation via the network by a predetermined time before said desired service time to establish this reservation, to said distributor terminal apparatus via the network, and wherein

said notification means sends said notification information upon said permission notification information being sent and further sends said notification information upon said distributor terminal apparatus performing said reservation reconfirmation procedure.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein:

the third party contact address user is an e-mail address; and
said notification means sends said notification information to the third party contact address via an e-mail.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second reservation types include a restricted reservation type and a public reservation type, respectively.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The content distribution notification method of Claim 18, wherein said restricted reservation type is one of a password reservation type and a secret reservation type.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said first and second reservation types include a restricted reservation type and a public reservation type, respectively.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The reservation control apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said restricted reservation type is one of a password reservation type and a secret reservation type.

Claims 22-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A computer program stored in a computer readable medium and containing instructions to cause a computing device to perform the method recited in one of Claims 1-8 and 18-19:

a content distribution notification method of informing a third party by a first party that a content distribution will be performed based on a reservation by a first party distributor terminal apparatus, said reservation for use of a distribution server, via a reservation control apparatus for controlling a reservation status of said distribution server, via a first network, and for performing a live content distribution using said distribution server based on the reservation, in order to perform the live content distribution using said distribution server for distributing content by streaming via said network to a client terminal apparatus, said content distribution notification method comprising:

receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said distribution server and third party contact address who should be informed that the content distribution will be performed, from said first party distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via a network;

setting a reservation based on said reservation request information;

a subsequent notifying step of sending notification information based on said reservation request information to notify the third party that the content distribution will be performed, from said reservation control apparatus to the third party contact address via the network when the content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted;

unidirectionally streaming the content distribution from a live distribution source to the third party based on said reservation request information;

performing a capacity check before accepting the reservation, including determining whether a channel is opened or closed;

providing a reservation summary to the first party including an indication of capacity, bands available, fee and a schedule showing which periods of time are free or reserved; and

reserving by the third party, for rebroadcast by the distribution server, a predetermined portion of a previous live broadcast of said content distribution, wherein

said reservation request information includes one of at least a first reservation type and a second reservation type;

a permission notification step of sending, when content distribution using said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is permitted, reservation permission notification information to notify the first party that the content distribution is permitted and that it is necessary for said first party to carry out a procedure for reconfirming the reservation via the network by a predetermined time before said desired service time to establish this reservation, from said reservation control apparatus to said first party distributor terminal apparatus via the network, and wherein

said notification step sends said notification information upon said distributor terminal apparatus performing said reservation reconfirmation procedure.